THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): : (a) Yes, Sir. Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) approved a revival scheme for Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) in September, 1996.

(b) The salient features of BIFR revival package were:

(i) Waiver of interest accrued on loans as on 31.3.95 amounting to Rs. 6164 lakhs;

(ii) Conversion of 50% of plan loan as on 31st March, 1995 representing Rs. 3975.89 lakhs into equity and the balance into 12% term loan with interest holiday for 3 years and moratorium on loan repayment for 4 years;

(iii) Conversion of Rs. 12.05 lakhs of non plan loan into 7% non cumulative prefrential shares redeemable in 10 years;

(iv) Sanction of loans to cover the cost of scheme envisaged at Rs. 3100 lakhs during VIII Plan, and

(v) Merger of India firebricks and Insulation Company Limited (IFICO) with BRL.

(c) Government have already provided these financial reliefs/concessions to BRL. BRL and IFICO have also merged with effect from 1.10.1997.

Setting up of New Steel Plants

3631. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to setting up new steel plants;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to set-up new steel plants in different States including Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposal to set-up a steel plant at Nayagrah in Keonjhar district of the State of Orissa and another at Paradeep in that State has been pending since long; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to implement that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, Iron and Steel Industry among others, has been removed from the list of Industries reserved for public sector, and also exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 subject to the condition that the proposed project is not located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of mere than 10 lacs according to the 1991 Census. The condition, however, does not apply if the plant is located in any approved industrial area.

No industrial licence from Government is, therefore, necessary to set up any iron and steel plants and entrepreneurs are required to file an Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) according to the above policy.

(b) and (c) The Union Government at present have no proposal to set up any new steel plant in the Central Public Sector in any part of the country.

(d) and (e) No Industrial Licence application under I (D&R) Act for grant of Letter of Intent/Industrial License is pending with the Union Government for setting up a steel plant at Nayagrah in Keonjhar District and Pradeeep in the State of Orissa.

Implementation of Durgapur Steel Modernisation Schemes

3632. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has pointed out serious lapses in the implementation of Durgapur Steel Modernisation Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;